

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

- Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 23-25, 27-31, 33-37, 45-47 and 49-53 and 55-59 are pending in the Application.

U.S. Patent No. 6,772,340 to Peinado et al. Commonly Owned

Applicants note that U.S. Patent No. 6,772,340 to Peinado et al. is commonly owned by the assignee of the Applicants. In studying the assignment of the present Application and the assignment of Peinado et al., Applicant's attorney submits:

The present Application, 09/671,055, filed 9/28/2000, and U.S. Patent No. 6,772,340 to Peinado et al. filed 3/15/2000 were, at the time the invention of the present Application 09/671,055 was made, owned by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington.

Accordingly, Peinado et al. is disqualified from being used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) against the claims of the present Application No. 09/671,055 according to 35 U.S.C. §103(c).

Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 23-25, 27-31, 33-37, 45-47, 49-53 and 55-59 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,634,012 to Stefik et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,892,900 to Ginter et al., in further view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 20020107809 A1 to Biddle et al, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,772,340 to Peinado et al. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As noted above, Peinado et al. is disqualified as prior art against the claims of the present Application. Considering the remaining references, since the combination of Stefik et al., Ginter et al. and Biddle et al, does not teach all of the limitations of independent Claims 1, 23 and 45, then a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C 103(a) cannot be

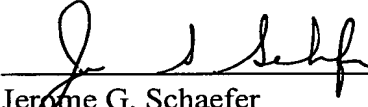
established (MPEP 706.02 (j)). Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 23 and 45 patentably define over the cited prior art. Since dependent Claims 2-3, 5-9 and 11-15 depend on independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 24-25, 27-31 and 33-37 depend on independent Claim 23 and dependent Claims 46-47, 49-53 and 55-59 depend on independent Claim 45, then all pending claims of the present Application patentably define over the cited art.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all pending claims of the current Application patentably define over the prior art. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

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